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FOOD INFORMATION CALENDAR

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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No. 175

DECONTROL BOARD HEARINGS. . . . The Price Decontrol Board begins public hearings at 9:30 a.m., EST, August 12, on the question of whether livestock, grain, milk, cottonseed and soybeans, and their food or feed products should continue free of price control after August 20. The hearings which will be held in the Senate Office Building, Room 318, in Washington, D. C., will last four days. The purpose of the hearings is to give affected industries and consumers a chance to present their views on whether these commodities should be recontrolled. The hearings will also assist the Board in determining whether subsidies on any of these commodities should be re-established if price controls are reinstituted.

The schedule for the hearings beginning each day at 9:30 a.m., EST, follows:

August 12--grains for which standards have been established under the U. S. Grain Standards Act, and livestock feed or poultry feed processed or manufactured in whole or in substantial part from them.

August 13--Livestock, and food or feed products processed or manufactured in whole or substantial part from livestock.

August 14--Cottonseed and soybeans, and food or feed products processed or manufactured in whole or substantial part from them.

August 15--Milk, and food or feed products processed or manufactured in whole or substantial part from milk.

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AIDS FOR FAO INFORMATION PROGRAMS. . . . FAO moved forward in its pre-Conference information program with the release last week of three reports summarizing a World Food Survey, proposals for a world food board, and the first annual report of the Director-General. The full reports will serve as springboards for discussion at the Copenhagen meeting September 2. Summaries of the releases, together with the basic fact sheet, are being distributed to information people and should help them in their own program to promote understanding of FAO and its purposes. Copies are available from the Office of Information.

The World Food Survey gives the clearest picture yet available of the prewar food situation in 70 countries covering 90% of the world's population. The report furnishes detailed figures on the food supplies each country had in the years just before the war, sets up nutritional goals, and tabulates the changes in supplies that are needed to reach the targets in the next few years.

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NEED SOME POSTERS?. . . . Could you make good use of additional copies of the canning poster, "Am I Proud?" or the Famine Emergency Campaign poster in blue which contains President Truman's message on saving food? If so, the Office of Information can still supply you. Help the posters do their part.

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FROM EXPORTER TO IMPORTER. . . . The United States may change from a net exporter of about 290 million pounds of fats and oils this year to a net importer of 270 million pounds during the 1946-47 crop year beginning October 1. according to recent USDA estimates. A big decline in domestic production and imports of copra and coconut oil from the Phillipines will be important factors in this change. This will not mean noticeable improvement in the civilian supply of fats and oils and commodities made from them during the 1946-47 crop year. As with sugar, little improvement is expected before the end of 1947 or later.

What to say about the current fats and oils situation has been the main problem of USDA information folk recently. Equitable distribution of the available supply has been a main concern of action agencies. The housewife is still being called upon to help make the country's present supply go as far as possible. Her efforts to date are praised.

Estimates for domestic production of fats and oils during the 1946-47 crop year show (1) a decline in lard, tallow, and grease production of about 300 million pounds; (2) a reduction in domestic vegetable oil output of about 310 million pounds; (3) a total net decline in domestic fat and oil production, excluding butter, of about 8 percent or approximately 560 million pounds.

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COMMUNITY CANNING. . . . It's well worth noising abroad when one Red Cross chapter gives \$2500 to help finance one community canning center. This action was voted after the chapter made a survey and found that pupils of more than half of the schools in the county want to use the Hopkins community canning center to can for their school lunch programs. That's what the Red Cross chapter of Hennepin County, Minn., has been up to this summer. In Ohio the PMA force at the county level is making a special effort to keep schools informed of plentiful foods and where they may be secured at minimum costs.

Those directly concerned with the community canning program in USDA have asked that a word be given here to the need for mobilizing volunteer help to harvest foods that can be used for school lunches. Anything that can be done to help enlist boys and girls will help solve this problem; the various youth groups, 4-H's, Scouts, and the like are good prospects. Volunteer groups are also needed to can for school lunch programs.

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DECONTROL BOARD SETS UP OFFICE. . . . The new Price Decontrol Board announced completion of its organization frame-work on August 6 and the appointment of its general counsel, economic advisor, acting secretary, and director of information. Delmar Beman, a former chief in OPA's Information Department, is the Board's director of information. Walter S. Salant, is economic adviser, David Cobb, general counsel, and Bice Clemow, acting secretary. Harold Leventhal, Washington attorney, will serve temporarily as advisor on procedural matters in the hearings scheduled to begin August 12 on whether livestock, dairy products, grain, soybeans, and cottonseed should remain free of price control after August 20.

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THE 1947 FCIC COTTON PROGRAM. . . . A recently approved program for 1947 cotton insurance is designed to simplify the farmer's contract and to provide coverage more nearly equal to the investment in the crop at various stages of production than in previous years.

The FCIC will offer substantially the same all-risk insurance protection in 1947 as it did in 1946. Major changes in the new program relate to the amount of coverage the farmer has at each of the four stages of production. Instead of the two levels of coverage at 50 and 75 percent of the average yield per acre, there will be three levels, designated as Levels A, B, and C. The farmer may choose any one he prefers, depending upon whether he wants to pay a lower premium for minimum coverage, or a higher premium for more coverage. The amount of coverage at each level will increase according to the stage of production reached by the cotton crop before it is damaged.

The new program will be presented to cotton farmers late in the year and early in 1947, before next year's cotton crop is planted. At the present time, wheat farmers are signing up for 1947 winter wheat insurance. Early reports from wheat States indicate a well-rounded sales campaign is under way in most areas, boosted by movie shorts in local theaters, newspaper stories and ads, radio releases, and posters. Earliest closing date for wheat sales is August 31.

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AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS. . . . August 2, the Senate passed bills to authorize the issuance of crop reports on Monday when the due date falls on Saturday and to authorize appropriations for the farm labor supply program (ready for the President); the Senate ratified a protocol transferring to FAO the functions and assets of the International Institute of Agriculture; both Houses agreed to the conference report on the first supplemental appropriation bill (includes items for OPA, Economic Advisors, Price Decontrol Board, stockpiling, etc.)--ready for the President; CONGRESS ADJOURNED, sine die; the President approved on August 2 a bill to give substantive authority for the administrative expense provisions carried in the Independent Offices Appropriation Act; also the LaFollette-Monroney bill reorganizing Congress.

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PLENTIFUL FOODS IN SEPTEMBER. . . . The list of plentiful foods for September follows: potatoes, onions, peaches (except in the South), honeydew melons, lemons, canned citrus juice, and fall apples.

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RADIO SCHEDULE, AUGUST 17. . . . NATIONAL FARM AND HOME HOUR, NBC, 12:00 a.m., EST, "Department of Agriculture Headlines."

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AMERICAN FARMER, ABC, 11:30 a.m., EST, the "Business Side of Farming," regular USDA feature.

CONSUMER TIME, NBC 11:15 a.m., EST, "Bigger and Better School Lunches," how communities can go about getting Federal aid for school lunches under the permanent school lunch program--what the program means to farmers and to our future citizens.

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SOME USDA RELEASES. . . . IEFEC announces interim allocation of beans and peas--
1674; Fur farming work transferred to USDA from In-
terior--1683; The wheat situation, domestic supplies in 1946-47 estimated
at over 1,230 million bu.--1671; Dairy set aside announcement--1687;
Salted fish import quotas set--1688;
Farm purchase record cited as FSA program begins 10th year--1691;
Farm real estate taxes in 1945--avg. over 10% higher than in 1944--1676;
World tobacco production rises--1692;
1946 lamb crop report--crop 2 million head or 7% smaller than in 1945--1696;
1946-47 fertilizer supplies for U. S., including Puerto Rico and Hawaii--1684;
Amendment to WFO 7 increases sugar supply: decreases refiners' sirups--1697;
The vegetable situation, record or near-record crop selling lower than
in 1945--1695;
USDA cuts back UNRRA purchase schedules at latter's request because of
need to use remaining UNRRA resources for foods cheaper in caloric value--
1701;
IEFEC recommends allocation of rice, July-December 1946--1710;
Amend. to WFO-9 will control oilseed meals for fertilizers--1711;
Erwin C. Elting appointed assistant chief of Office of Experiment Sta-
tions succeeding Robt. W. Trulling now chief of OES--1714;
Arthur H. Spillers made chief of the division of private forestry,
USDA's Forest Service--1709;
USDA reappraises wool holdings owned by CCC-1721;
USDA announces August allocations of grain quotas to distillers--1722;
USDA announces price basis for wheat purchases--1723;
1946 crop wheat loan rates increased--1724;
Stocks of soybeans on July 1, 1946 (36½ million bu.) smaller than for
three years past on the same date--1727;
More than 87 million pounds 1946 shorn wool appraised and purchased
under CCC program--1729.

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OTHER RELEASES OF AGRICULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE. . . . Canadians required to apply
to CPA for priority assistance
to obtain steel for housing products and farm machinery; priorities aid to obtain
pig iron extended to Canadian manufacturers of these products--CPA-LD-186; Clari-
fying statement on status of contracts negotiated while price control was in abey-
ance--OPA-T-4836; June production of farm equipment dropped to \$56,637,625, from
\$58,469,486 in May, a 3.1% decline--CPA-LD-184; Restaurant foods still under price
control, restaurant's current mark-up method over raw food cost applied to de-
controlled foods--OPA 6663; Retail price increases of one to three cents a package
in all major types of breakfast cereals, except corn flakes, puffed wheat and
puffed rice, announced--OPA-6670; Millers' ceilings on corn meal, corn flour,
hominy grits, brewers' grits and other corn products made by a dry milling process
increased \$1.10 per 100 pounds--OPA-6668; Temporary ceiling price increase on flour
and a temporary increase of about one cent per pound on bread announced, equivalent
increases on most other baked goods--OPA-T-4841; Increased prices for basic cotton
textiles at the mill level announced by OPA estimated to increase retail prices of
cotton apparel 6 to 8 percent and household linens and piece goods 17 percent--OPA-
6672; Radio talk Aug. 3 by Paul A. Porter, Administrator of OPA, on new price con-
trol law, agricultural and industrial production--OPA-6667; Consumers will pay from
one to two cents a can more for canned corn, peas, tomatoes and tomato products and
one cent a twelve ounce package more for frozen corn and peas because of termination
of subsidy payment programs covering 1945 and 1946 packs--OPA-6682.

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USDA'S DECONTROL AUTHORITY under the OPA extension acts was recently summarized by the Office of the Solicitor for general information purposes. Although you have the information in various ways by now this brief, clear summary may be helpful:

(1) On September 1, 1946 the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit a list of agricultural commodities that are in short supply to OPA. All commodities on this list remain under price control. All commodities not appearing on this list must be decontrolled. A revision of the list of agricultural commodities in short supply will be made each month by the Department of Agriculture. New items appearing on the list become subject to recontrol upon recommendations of the Secretary, with the consent of the Decontrol Board, and items dropped from the list will be decontrolled.

(2) The Secretary of Agriculture shall recommend removal of ceilings from all agricultural commodities not important to business costs or living costs. OPA must decontrol such recommended commodities within ten days after receiving such a recommendation.

(3) The Secretary of Agriculture must make a determination on any petition for the decontrol of any agricultural commodity filed by an Industry Advisory Committee within fifteen days. In case of denial by the Secretary of any petition, the Industry Advisory Committee may appeal the decision to the Decontrol Board.

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NEWS FROM GEORGIA. . . . The Georgia Press Association initiates this year an annual award to the Georgia newspaper which does the best job of interpreting and presenting agricultural and home economics news. The award will be made, among others previously established, at the meeting of the Association in Savannah this month. The plaque, which will be rotated to the winning paper each year, bears these words: "Georgia Agricultural Extension Service Award--Presented annually by the Georgia Press Association, in behalf of the Georgia Agricultural Extension Service, to the newspaper in the State making the most significant contribution to the development of a better farm and home program for its community by the presentation and interpretation of agricultural and home economics news."

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